

Reality

- The Psalms allow us to express the whole range of human emotion (not just good times), particularly the absence of God, our confusion and doubt.
- Also to express negative feelings of bitterness, rage, revenge
- The 'cursing' of 'imprecatory' Psalms. Major imprecatory Psalms include Psalm 69 and Psalm 109, while Psalms 5, 6, 11, 12, 35, 37, 40, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 79, 83, 94, 137, 139, and 143 are also considered imprecatory. As a sample, Psalm 69:24 states toward God, "*Pour out Your indignation on them, and let your burning anger overtake them.*"
- But not for us to take revenge, but leave this to God. (Romans 12:19)
- *Book of Common Prayer* 'Service of Communion'
- Forgiveness is the direction we want to go in, but we might not be ready for that yet.
- We share with the rest of creation, a groaning because life is not as it should be (Romans 8:22-23)
- The difference between 'defiance' and 'denial'
- Does worship in church always have to be about joyful praise, victory, resurrection, confidence? How real is that?

The structure of the Psalms of Lament

- A journey from rage to recovery; from abandonment to affirmation; from pain to praise.
- The Time this takes – it can be from minutes to years.
 1. Address to God (Yahweh; and other attributes of God – relationship)
 2. The complaint itself, often in the form of questions: Why?
 3. Petition. Asking God to remove the situation.
 4. Praise: immediate or long term looking back.

Recovery

- Can we live with the non-answers? Not answers, but relationship restored.
- Our willingness to name that which needs healing; expression of painful truth
- How long does healing take?
- Allow time and space to lament
- Esther Fleece: "*No more Faking Fine: Ending the Pretending.*"

Collective memory

- Our modern post-Christian world seems to need this: anniversaries; Jewish Holocaust memorial;
- War Memorials; Remembrance Day
- Lament